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IMMIGRATION.

THAT we are getting a larger number of the undesirable than we are of the desirable class is evident from the fact that, from 1871 to 1880, England, Ireland and France—from which countries we receive the most desirable immigrants—sent us 958,851, and from 1881 to 1890, they sent us 1,354,893, or an increase of only 41 per cent. for the decade. Italy, Poland, Russia and Hungary—the countries from which the most undesirable immigrants come—sent us, from 1871 to 1880, 128,911, and from 1881 to 1890, they sent us 689,837, or an increase of 435 per cent. for the decade. And the fact that 60 per cent. of these last named were unable to read or write when they landed, does not make the outlook for our future very bright.

Notwithstanding the cholera quarantine last fall, which nearly suspended immigration, there arrived during the ten months ending October 31, 1892, from Poland 26,600, from Russia (proper) 51,606, from Italy 51,842 and from Hungary 31,222, making a total of 161,268. The number of these who were unable to read and write was as follows: from Poland 13,336, or 56 per cent.; from Russia (proper) 10,400, or 20 per cent.; from Italy 34,320, or 66 per cent.; and from Hungary 8,745, or 28 per cent.

The table on the following page shows more in detail the increase of the most undesirable immigrants.

The immigrants from Ireland, Wales, Germany, Switzerland, Spain and Denmark decreased 31 per cent.; from Russia, Austria-Hungary and Italy, they increased, on an average, 113 per cent.

That the importation of such a per cent. of ignorant immigrants into the United States is largely responsible for the vast amount of crime is certain. While only 29 per cent. of our population is foreign-born, the bulletins issued by the Census Office on pauperism and crime show that out of a total of 45,233 convicts in penitentiaries in the United States, in 1890, 15,598 were of foreign birth, or parentage. Omitting the 14,687 colored persons, we find that 51½ per cent. of our penitentiary population was made up from the foreign element.

The number of inmates of juvenile reformatories in 1890 was 14,846. The nativity of 3,325 was unknown, and 6,333 were of foreign birth, or parentage. Omitting the 1,943 colored, we find that 66 per cent. of those of known nativity were from the foreign element.

ALIEN PASSENGERS LANDED AT THE PORT OF NEW YORK, 1882-1891.

YEAR.	Ireland.	Eng. land.	Wales.	Scot. land.	Ger. many.	France.	Rus. sia.	Bohe. mia.	Switz. er'nd.	Swed. en.	Nor. way.	Belgi. um.	Hol. land.	Italy.	Sp'in tug'l.	Den. mark.	Hun. gary.	Aus. tralia.	China.	Austria key.	Tur. key.	Gr'ce.	All other co nt's	Total.	
1882	52,768	40,849	4,415	13,557	198,468	4,667	15,900	7,179	12,068	42,517	15,147	1,043	7,078	27,484	1,327	12,834	11,944	34	293	2,707	140	126	3,493	476,086	
1883	55,184	41,525	3,840	8,922	176,601	3,932	7,577	4,877	10,326	19,976	11,939	1,331	3,971	25,485	1,101	8,404	13,160	54	268	3,095	104	63	4,096	405,909	
1884	39,966	32,086	1,776	6,872	141,922	3,898	12,432	7,093	7,237	16,722	9,942	1,971	3,029	14,076	962	26	7,100	15,797	16	158	3,731	72	64	3,082	330,030
1885	35,597	33,009	1,108	7,897	98,111	5,060	16,578	6,697	6,486	15,797	9,786	1,804	2,458	16,033	1,063	48	7,436	11,129	30	110	11,251	103	56	3,509	291,066
1886	46,215	46,215	1,043	12,277	73,099	4,998	23,987	4,222	5,531	21,995	10,443	1,704	3,323	29,312	438	17	8,001	18,135	3	8	15,772	173	96	4,697	321,814
Total	219,930	193,684	12,218	49,525	688,291	22,555	76,474	30,068	41,684	116,877	57,257	7,853	19,853	112,390	4,891	151	43,775	70,165	137	777	36,556	592	405	18,877	1,824,905
1887	56,860	45,696	5,449	14,864	81,864	5,999	33,203	6,449	4,537	37,868	13,011	2,362	5,500	44,274	485	131	8,375	17,719	36	64	11,762	169	612	8,122	405,405
1888	49,188	57,275	1,422	16,990	86,380	7,438	33,329	4,014	7,920	38,838	14,564	2,707	5,264	44,327	741	51	8,369	13,018	44	78	22,317	192	593	4,749	419,718
1889	43,090	46,214	767	11,415	75,458	7,938	28,300	3,029	7,847	25,398	10,034	2,601	6,271	28,810	824	60	7,935	15,678	66	85	16,919	311	149	10,034	349,233
1890	33,604	24,833	287	4,869	68,058	4,208	31,793	17,316	6,836	24,301	9,569	2,118	3,209	58,243	44	863	8,220	23,593	6	5	25,232	540	273	11,370	348,510
1891	35,951	22,820	456	4,887	79,496	4,189	52,022	27,500	6,264	32,426	10,600	2,773	4,295	65,084	124	1,985	9,024	25,409	15	—	27,433	73	1,038	16,230	430,884
Total	218,693	196,838	8,381	53,025	391,256	29,772	178,647	58,308	33,404	158,825	57,778	12,561	24,559	240,738	2,218	3,090	41,923	95,327	167	232	103,663	1,285	2,575	50,505	1,963,750

Of the 73,045 alms-house paupers in the United States, June 30, 1890, 32,177 were of foreign birth or parentage; 6,467 were colored; and the nativity of 2,274 was unknown, as was the nativity of the parents of 10,608. Omitting the colored persons and those whose nativity was unknown, we find that 59½ per cent. of our paupers were from the foreign element.

The facts are such as to demand some practical means of limiting undesirable immigration. The only satisfactory and absolutely just restriction that can be placed upon immigration, is, in my judgment, to fix a moral, physical and intellectual standard by which proposed immigrants must be rated, or refused admission to this country. This, and this alone will give us a better and more desirable class of immigrants.

Congress should pass an act requiring every person who desires to emigrate to the United States to provide himself with a certificate of character from the chief executive officer of his city or town, stating that the person named in the certificate is of good moral character, and stating the number of years that he has been a resident of the city or town. The law should require that the certificate have three indorsements,—first, by the Chief of Police, stating that the person named has not been brought before the courts on any criminal charge for a period of not less than five years, and that no charges are now pending against the said person; second, by the Chief Health Officer, stating that the person named is in good health, and that no contagious diseases have been reported in his household for a period of not less than one year; third, by the chief officer of the Poor, stating that the person named has not received any assistance from the poor authorities for a period of not less than five years.

This certificate should be signed by the proposed emigrant and witnessed by the chief executive officer of the town when issued, as an evidence of the applicant's ability to read and write; and upon his arrival at the port of sailing the certificate should again be signed by the person holding it, in the presence of the duly accredited agent of the United States, as a means of identification, after which it should be countersigned by said agent. Upon the emigrant's arrival in this country the immigration authorities should take up this certificate of character and issue a certificate of admission, which should contain a general description of the person, together with the statements contained in the certificate of character.

WILLIAM H. JEFFREY.